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THE PIONEER

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

BIRTHDAY APPEAL

NEWS and NOTES . . .

CAPTAIN C. FISK : On the 29th March Captain C. Fisk completed 35 years of service as an officer of the Society and so became eligible for his 5th star. This will be presented to him during our Birthday celebrations in Newcastle on the 30th July. Captain Fisk has been retired for the past five years but recent news shows that to him and Mrs. Fisk retirement is just as active and busy as all their life has been. They visit the Anglican Village at Booragul to conduct the evening service on the 4th Sunday of every second month. It is a joy for them on these occasions to have fellowship with Archdeacon Williamson, a friend of the Church Army for many years and with one of our retired sisters, Sister G. A. Phillipot.

They send their greetings to their many friends throughout Australia who have known them in parishes where they have worked or who have had contact with them at the Newcastle Bookshop where Captain Fisk was manager for over twenty years.

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS : We are always delighted to hear news of those who have been our supporters for many years as we often do in correspondence to Federal Office but it is not often that we are able to visit those who are a long way from us. We were very glad therefore to hear from one of our officers that when he was visiting Mackay in North Queensland recently he met Mrs. M. Gamage who has been a regular subscriber since the early days of our work in Australia.

If you know that any of our officers are within reach of you I am sure they would be happy to pay you a visit if you contact them.

CHURCH ARMY FETE : This year's fete, held on the 18th March, resulted in just over \$500 being added to our funds. The fine, sunny weather made it a very happy occasion as many of our Sydney friends met together and patronised the well stocked stalls.

WEDDING BELLS : On Monday 10th April Captain Rex Harris was married to Mrs. Norma Hill. We welcome Norma and her two daughters, Glenda and Kerry, into the Church Army family and pray for God's richest blessing on them in the future. Norma and the girls are no strangers to Green Valley and as Captain Harris will continue his ministry there for the present we wish them much joy as they witness together as a Christian family in that area.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION : We are grateful indeed to all our subscribers who indicated that they did not require a receipt for their gift as this saves us quite a considerable amount in postage. Will you please accept this as a personal expression of our thanks.

We have been greatly encouraged by the response of many of our friends to the news in the last Pioneer that the college bus had come to the end of a long and useful life and must be replaced. Many of our readers have sent generous donations towards the cost of a new van. This has greatly reduced the burden on the Society and is much appreciated. We are grateful indeed to the "Walter & Eliza Hall" Trust who have donated \$300.00 towards the cost. The new vehicle, a V.W. Mini Bus, was dedicated by the Chairman of our Board, the Rt. Rev. F. O. Hulme-Moir, at a service in the college chapel on Monday 17th April.

NEW BOARD MEMBER : In the December issue of The Pioneer we reported the election of five new members of our Executive Board. We are glad now to be able to add that Mr. K. Llewellyn has been elected to the one remaining vacancy and that he has also accepted the position of Hon. Treasurer to the Society. Mr. Llewellyn is the accountant at the Balmain Hospital and is a parishioner of St. Mary's, Balmain East.

Life is made for living

The following article was written by the Federal Secretary, Captain R. L. Gwilt, during his recent visit to England. He is pictured at the right with the Captain of H.M.S. Collingwood and Captain Bert Cooper.

As the 707 jet descended through the bank of grey-black clouds, the outskirts of London suddenly came in view. Strange feelings of eager anticipation mixed with apprehension surged through me as the great plane swept lower and lower for the landing at Heathrow Airport. Here I was on Saturday the 15th April, 1972 back in England after an absence of 23 years.

Prebendary Donald Lynch, the Chief Secretary, met me and welcomed me to England and to the English Church Army and soon we were driving through central London on our way to Bromley.

Within a few hours we were on the move again, driving to Lincoln to join a team of officers for special preaching engagements in the Lincoln area. This was followed on the Monday evening by a great Church Army Rally in the magnificent Cathedral where I had the privilege of preaching on the Sunday evening. The Cathedral was celebrating its 900th anniversary and the Church Army its 90th.

Back again to London on the Tuesday morning and straight to the modern, eight storey Headquarters to meet officers and others in charge of some of the many departments of the Society's work. In the afternoon I attended a Board meeting when I



extended greetings and good wishes from the Australian Society and talked briefly about our work.

The next few days were spent at the Wilson Carlile Training College at Blackheath meeting the 60 students and 8 staff members, sharing in the worship in the lovely chapel and sitting in at some of the lectures and seminars.

A highlight of my visit was the residential Staff Conference held at Swanwick in Derbyshire, when most of the 400 active officers came together from all over the British Isles. It was a great thrill to share in this wonderful Conference and to meet personally so many of the officers, as well as two from the Church Armies in America and Jamaica. The Conference theme was "Constant Renewal" and this was presented to us with great spiritual insight by the Archbishop of York in a series of Bible studies during a Quiet Day at the commencement of conference. The studies were on Colossians chapters one and two and the Archbishop referred to two sources of Renewal — 1. A right relationship with God in Christ. 2. A right estimate of our work in the Church of Christ.

Immediately after Conference I embarked on an extensive programme of visiting officers and others in many parts of the country to see the work they do. This interesting tour took me to Sheffield for discussions with the Senior Industrial Missioner, then to Manchester to stay the night at a Church Army Hostel for men and also to see the almost completed, fine new Hostel which will contain premises for a new Counselling Centre as well. The following morning I spent about two hours in



'Here's

"THANK GOODNESS, I'M HERE AT LAST," was the thought in my mind as I drove into the City of Rockhampton after travelling approximately 1200 miles by car. Only another seven miles to go! What's that ahead — it's a sign "Main Street, Park Avenue," I must remember that sign as it will lead me to the Parish Church where I will be assisting throughout my ministry here.

In his letter Father Meaker said they are located next door to the cement works. Yes, I can see the cement plant and, there it is, my destination — "ST. GEORGE'S HOMES" — in big red letters.....

As I began to drive up the dirt track I realised that the Homes, the work ahead of me, in fact everything was bigger than I had imagined. Then I saw another sign, "All visitors are asked to report to the Superintendent's office." I smiled as I passed that sign, "Well," I thought, "this is one visitor who will be staying for a long time."

Who's that ahead — it's a boy — "Hello there, young man, can you tell me where I will find the Reverend Meaker, please?"

"Who are you, are you a policeman, is that a policeman's uniform you have on?"

"No, my little friend, I am in the Church Army, I am going to stay here for a while."

"Then you must be the Captain," he replied. "Yes, I am Captain Darnley," I said as I shook his hand. "Now, could you tell me where I can find the Reverend Meaker, please?"

"Oh, you mean Father Max, you will find him in the big white house up the track a bit," returned the boy as he raced off. That little boy's name was Shane and later on I was to get to know him a great deal better.

"Captain Darnley, welcome to St. George's Homes." No sooner had I got out of the car than I was shaking the warm and friendly hand of Father Max Meaker. Again, no sooner had I entered the door of the office than Father Max called to his wife, "The Captain is here." Very soon after we all settled down to some afternoon tea, for a quiet chat and a rest after my long trip.

Between that time and the present, three and a half months have passed and I have come to know a lot of people, both young and old. Every now and then I still hear the words, "Here's the Captain," not always in the tone of welcome but rather, "Here's the Captain, look out." I suppose we have all heard the old saying "boys will be boys," it is true of our boys here, they are boys in the true sense and one cannot help but really love them all.

You may ask yourself what life is like for a Church Army Captain in a Boys' Home. I can tell you in three words, "FULL AND BUSY," and there is never a dull moment.

Let me illustrate this by giving a few examples. The other day we had finally sent the boys off to school when my phone rang. At the other end was a matron from the Junior Boys' Home who was in desperate need. The tap in the bathroom was broken and water was gushing out everywhere. Could I come and fix it for her right away? The broken tap was no problem really, the problem was that in twenty minutes I was required to be at Park Avenue Primary School for two Scripture Classes. It was a slight rush but I made it on time at the school and replaced the tap before I left.

Then there was the time I was walking to the office to catch up on a pile of administrative work when I saw one of the big sows (female pig) out

PHOENIX

Q. Phoenix? Why Phoenix?

A. "Mythical bird . . . that burnt itself on a funeral pile and rose from the ashes with renewed youth . . ." My parish is Lara, in Victoria, about 40 miles from Melbourne, and in 1966 devastating bushfires seared the Church to the ground. From this tragedy the people came together with renewed courage and enthusiasm, and another modern building now stands in its place, with the bell tower still reminding folk that amid the stress and disasters of life the Spirit of Jesus lives on. Lara itself is a pretty town, with a closely knit community of people.

Q. Why should such an area need both a Rector and an Assistant?

A. The Parish consists of five centres, three of which are country areas, and the fourth is Corio, a busy suburban and industrial community, where my work takes me most of the time. Many of the husbands are involved in shift work because of the huge industrial plants that belch their smoke into Corio bay every day. The chief of these is the complex Shell Oil Refinery, with its glowing flares and tracery of lights outlined in the night sky. The variety of industry in this area is really quite invaluable, providing jobs for so many men and women, from a large car assembly plant to the woollen mills of Geelong.

Q. In such an area, surely housing would be a problem?

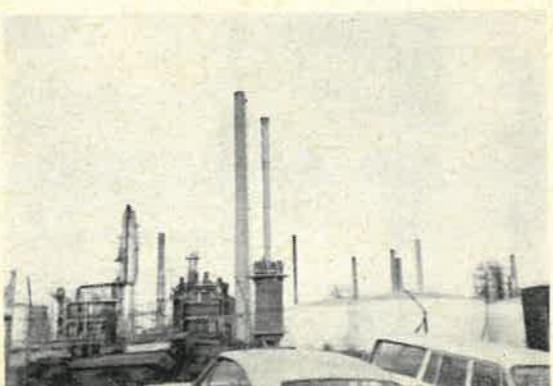
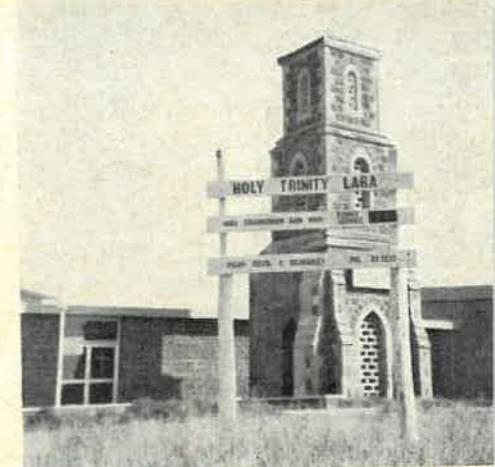
A. This certainly would be the case, except that the Housing Commission have built many homes in Corio, and building is continuing constantly, with plans ahead for another area so large that a big shopping complex will be built side by side. The Council have recently

employed the services of a Social Worker, and under his guidance the clergy of the area are now involved in the genesis of a "Citizens Advisory Bureau" as part of the complex, along with a Day Care Centre and Kindergarten. The opportunities for such a centre, staffed by Clergy and trained Christian Lay people, are quite exciting in this area of working mothers and many financial and emotional problems.

Q. What kind of work would a Church Army Sister be involved in then, in an area such as this?

A. Quite simply — People. Perhaps confused or in need, maybe self complacent or even apathetic, but still made in God's image, and loved dearly by Him. Most of my time is taken up with visiting. The Church of the Nativity, in Corio, has only a small congregation, with a rather chequered history, and it's a delight to be able to join with my Vicar, the Rev. Fred Dearnaley, in spreading around some "T.L.C." (tender loving care). The challenge of visiting is exciting, as most of the people who allow me the privilege of sharing in their home life and problems, are those of Anglican allegiance, but no real association with our church at all. Many folk who have just returned from hospital are pleasantly surprised to have a visitor from the church call on them, while many young mothers are so proud to show off their new babies, but even more importantly, to have someone else to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7, COLUMN 2)



COLLEGE MISSION to Kempsey

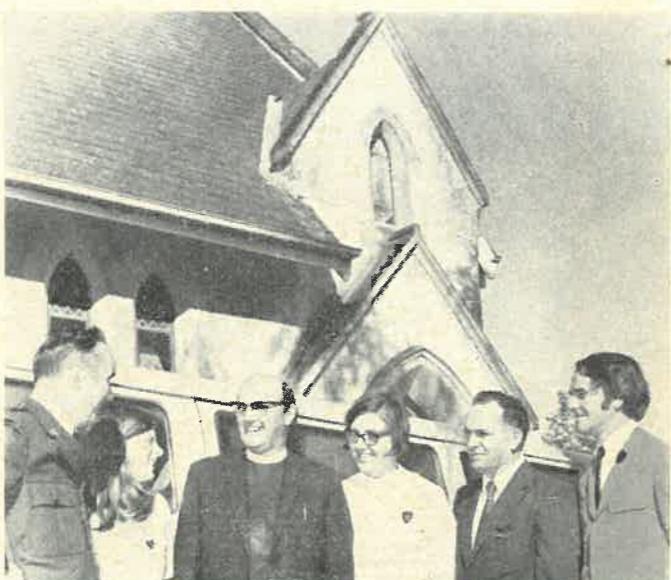
'Jesus is Lord'

Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Part of the theme hymn sung at the mission services which became the prayer of commitment made by some for the first time, as the reality and power of Jesus Christ was shared through witness, worship and service during the ten days of mission to All Saints' Anglican Church, Kempsey, undertaken by a team from the Training College.

After months of prayer and planning on the part of the local clergy and people, the Church Army team consisting of students Carolyn Eatwell, Bob Eland, Christine Jensen and Jeff Joy under the leadership of Captain Frank Clarke arrived in Kempsey on Friday, 29th April. Before settling in to their billets with the local people the team was introduced to the Parish Mission Committee under the leadership of the Rector, the Rev. Canon Ron Hancock and his assistant, the Rev. Bob Coutts. It was a thrilling experience for all as the efforts of so many over a long period of time came into focus at the beginning of the mission.

The next ten days were to be extremely busy ones. On the Saturday evening in the lovely parish church the team was commissioned by the Bishop of Grafton for the special ministry of evangelism. The Bishop's wise words of encouragement and challenge to the team and congregation at this service proved to be a source of real strength in the hectic days ahead.



The Publicity Committee had made sure Kempsey knew that the Mission was on and all the local advertising facilities were used to emphasise the theme. In addition to letters, leaflets and programmes delivered to the homes in the town, the local radio station broadcast invitations as well as news about the mission and recorded interviews with members of the team.

Each edition of the Macleay Argus included news and pictures and helped to keep the theme and programme before the local people. The two central hotels in the town gave permission for large banners proclaiming "Jesus is Lord" to be displayed outside their premises.

BELROSE TO BUSINESS (Continued)

The training was invaluable, the teaching necessary, the fellowship inspiring, but college was only a preparation for the real work which has now begun. I'm glad to be able to say that, otherwise college would have failed. Praise God it didn't. Goodbye Belrose! Hullo Business!

There are many Bible verses which would be apt as a final word but God has led me to a prayer, one that, though very old, has recently been learned around the world and one that Kalamunda has recently used as its special prayer for our parish mission:

"O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know You more clearly, love You more dearly and follow You more nearly day by day, for your own sake. Amen."

WHAT A BUSINESS!

Captain Ken Donaldson.

Looking to the future

Your legacy to the Church Army could help to ensure the future training of men and women as Evangelists and enable the development of the Society's work in many areas of direct evangelism and Christian service.

For your guidance the following wording can be used as a clause or codicil in your Will.

"I give to the Church Army in Australia *

.....
.....
.....

and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer for the time being or other proper officer of the Church Army shall be a sufficient discharge for the same."

* Here insert the sum of money or the description of the houses, land, stock, shares, mortgage, debt or other property intended to be given.

PHOENIX (Continued)

talk to, and our monthly Family Services provide an ideal way for them to attend church with their children.

Q. We hear a great deal these days about the problems of teenagers, are there many in your area?

A. Yes. In their thousands. Fortunately, we have an active Youth Club which meets weekly, and provides both social outlet and guidance to about forty young people, although we fully realise this is really only "skimming the surface." To help us plan for the future, a young engaged couple and I travel to Melbourne each week to attend a Youth Leadership Course, and with this encouragement, we produced a Christian Mod. Musical Drama for the Parish at Easter. Service is vitally important for young people, and to emphasise and help the needs of the community, they recently collected door to door for the Children's Hospital Appeal, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the process!

Q. You've spoken of the "Needs of the Community". How is the Church attempting to meet these needs?

A. Personal counselling is available at any time from the Vicar or myself. The Family Service and weekly Communion Service provide spiritual food for any who wish to come. But of course we realise a great deal more is necessary. Plans are beginning to develop to form an after school youth club, to cater for the 11-14 age group, especially those with working parents, while the needs of Shift-workers and working mothers we hope may be helped by having an evening mid week Service of a more informal nature. Weekly Coffee morning and discussion groups for young mothers could be a great help to many. However, the most exciting need, in a busy new housing area, is to be open to the Spirit of Christ to direct as He will, as He alone knows the intimate needs of each of his children.

Phoenix . . . new life out of the ashes of the old.

Sister Beverley Rilatt.